

An Upcoming Way to Help: *Change Matters*

We have been selected as a partner in the **Change Matters** program!

What does this mean?
Shoppers at *Wedge Lyndale*,

Wedge Table and *Linden Hills Co-op* are given the opportunity to round up their total to the nearest dollar at the register, and that money goes to the month's chosen partner.

We are partnering with them for the month of **August**.

Encourage your friends and family to stop by and round up!



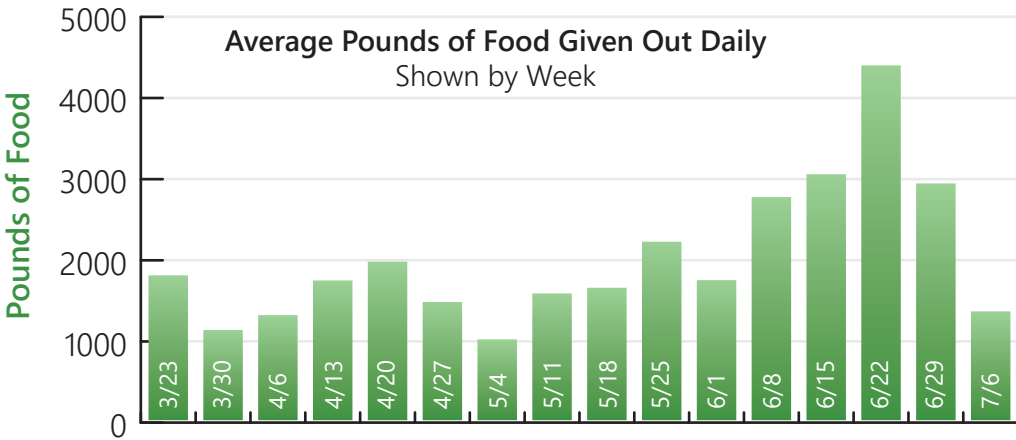
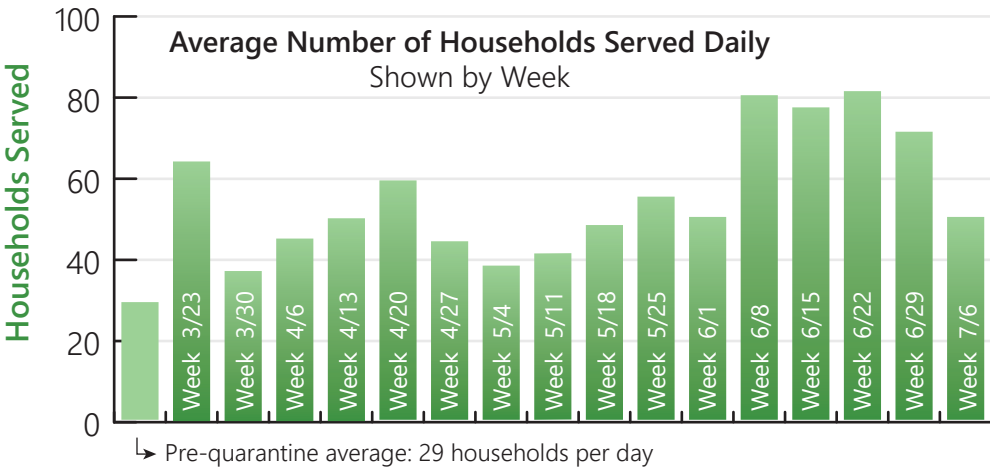
Client Visits in the Time of COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck Minnesota, we anticipated big changes. We saw people losing their jobs and income during the quarantine, and we knew we were about to see a lot of new faces at our doorstep. We at CES made it our mission to rise to the occasion.

Our client visits have skyrocketed, and we are giving out more food each week than we ever have before.

To the right you'll see two bar graphs summarizing the efforts of our Food Shelf. **The top graph shows how many households we served each day, averaged at the end of each week.** The bottom graph shows the pounds of food given out.

Below, see a list of some of the truly *incredible* supporters who made our efforts possible! This does not even include the *army* of individuals who rallied to support us in this time of trouble.



Huge Thank You to the Supporters Whose Generosity Carried Us Through Quarantine!

Businesses/Corporations

AARP
Girl Scout Troop 17804
GIVEMN/Razoo Foundation
LTK Consulting Services
Metro Meals on Wheels
Productivity Inc
Project Recognize
Ryan Companies US, Inc
Scandinavian Friends
Schwab Charitable Fund

Congregations

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
Bethlehem Covenant Church
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bread of Life Deaf Lutheran Church
Calvary Lutheran Church
Christ Church Lutheran City Church
Colonial Church of Edina
Crosstown Covenant Church
First Christian Church
First Congregational Church
First Free Church
Grace University Lutheran Church
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Hope Church
Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church
Mount Olive Lutheran Church

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church
Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church
Normandale Lutheran Church
Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
River Valley Church
Spirit of St. Stephens Catholic Community
Wayzata Community Church
Wooddale Church

Foundations & Grantors

Ameriprise Financial

BNSF Railway
CenterPoint Energy
City of Lakes Rotary
Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP)
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Hunger Solutions Minnesota
J A Wedum Foundation
Peter J. King Family Foundation
The Minneapolis Foundation
Meals on Wheels Association of America
Otto Bremer Trust
RBC Foundation – USA
Tennant Foundation
The Food Group

CES Mission

Rooted in God's loving grace, Community Emergency Service transforms lives by serving neighbors, sharing resources and becoming community

~
a place where people come hungry and leave hopeful.

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Community Emergency Service

The Spotlight Newsletter

Beyond Bread to the Bread of Life . . . Beyond Ourselves to Jesus Christ

Musings About the Past Four Months – Linda Velez, *Volunteer Engagement Director*

I began working with CES January 21, 2020, which means the majority of my time has been during this pandemic, so I am not even sure what "normal" looks or feels like. What I do know, is that it is all about **COMMUNITY**. Yes, we assist people in time of need, offering support and resources during emergency situations, however long that may take. Yes, we provide a service and know now that will continue to happen regardless of what is thrown our way. The key I have noticed is **HOW** it all happens: a community of people who care.

Staff who are resilient, adaptable, passionate and have a can-do attitude.

Neighbors who remain upbeat, appreciative and patient with our changes.

Volunteers who rise to the challenge without giving it a second thought and are willing to do whatever is needed.

Donors like you who are generous, believe in what is possible and trust we will carry out the mission.

During the last few months, I have seen examples of this



Food shelf clients wait patiently to be served as our Food Shelf is set up in the parking lot

played out on numerous occasions from the quick switch to frozen meals, distributing food in inclement weather, adding additional people to Home Delivery without missing a beat, offering food delivery as needed, and masks being sewn to keep us all safe.

It is the people—our community—that allows me to believe we will be okay and come out stronger than ever.



Seven van/pickup trucks delivered a massive food donation from the BSU Black Student Council food drive



Director's Discourse

Since our last Spotlight, much in our world has changed. We have all been experiencing a pandemic that is unprecedented in any of our lifetimes, bringing with it deep profound social change. For many, this has been a time of isolation, loneliness and fear.

Unfortunately, in the middle of the Coronavirus outbreak, we have also experienced a great social upheaval triggered by the murder of George Floyd by MPD rouge police officers. This resulted in outrage that became a lightning rod for an outpouring of protests nationwide. Frustration over long time social and racial injustice turned into rage and manifested itself in days of protests and rioting that destroyed parts of Minneapolis, spilling into St. Paul and beyond.

Throughout all of this, Community Emergency Service has remained steadfast in our mission of serving our neighbors in need. It has been a very difficult time for us. Our volunteer core was lost nearly overnight. Out of necessity caused by the virus, we were forced to transform our programs and even our staff relationships into one of

social distance, and a minimal contact environment.

In the face of skyrocketing demand for food and connection with our neighbors, we can no longer allow our neighbors to enter our building. We serve them, wearing masks, gloves and using sanitizer. Where we deliver food, we encounter limited access to buildings. We have had to develop processes focused on our best attempts at keeping everyone safe—staff, volunteers, and most of all our neighbors, many of whom are vulnerable to effects of the virus—while at the same time meeting a growing need for food.

Throughout this time of profound uncertainty and radical change, our Lord has been with us. All of you have shown such great generosity. We have experienced an outpouring of food and fund donations. These gifts have come from impassioned individuals, congregations, corporations and grantors all seeking to help those in need in the most devastated areas of our state - the areas we serve. We have also received an outpouring of new volunteers to join us in helping to reach those in need.

Throughout all of this, I am reminded again that our Lord is our provider. His provision is and will be sufficient. In this month's newsletter, you will see the evidence of His generous answer to prayer. Moreover, you will see how He uses people like each of you to serve His people, now more than ever, to the least of these in Minnesota. I pray you will be inspired.

Mike Lloyd

Mike Lloyd, Executive Director



A man stands on a burned out car after Minneapolis riots. Photo by Lorie Shaull, obtained via Wikimedia Commons

Delivering Meals on Wheels Surrounded by Smoke

As told by Chris Nelson, CES Director of Development:

I delivered Meals on Wheels to two neighbors living in a six-story apartment building on E Lake St and Hiawatha. I parked on 21st Ave S, passing two burned out cars, and walked through a shopping center parking lot with a dozen businesses with smashed windows and graffiti. It was engulfed with smoke as two fire trucks worked to snuff out the remnants of a fire from the night before.

The building manager had just encouraged residents to re-

late for their safety, not knowing if the building would be safe in the days to come, with the power having been knocked out the previous night by the rioting and no longer having a serviceable elevator. I walked up the stairwell to deliver the meals to the client on the third floor, using my cellphone flashlight as the emergency lights were nearing the end of their battery life. The smell of smoke hung in the air.

As I climbed the flights of stairs, I was able help an elderly Somali woman and her granddaughter with their

luggage, and in return they helped me get access to the locked floor I needed. The Meals on Wheels client was grateful for the meals, but preoccupied by having to pack in a hurry, not sure when, or if he had a place to return to when things calmed down.

As I left the building, the residents and I exchanged blessings in the lobby and I promised to pray for them. I returned to the smoke from the smoldering shopping mall, past the ruined cars and gawkers taking photos and videos of the wreckage.



Smoke in the air near a MOW client's home

CES in a Time of Trouble



Knox church sorting a massive donation of food and supplies



Girl scouts deliver needed food and toiletries

"Hello, hello. Oh please help me! I don't know what to do. I'm handicapped, and the person who shopped for me won't come anymore because of COVID-19. I've eaten everything in my house and now I haven't eaten in two days. I'm starting to get weak."

"I'm in need of food. I have no car and no money. I've never had to do this, but I have no choice now. Please help me."



Above and left: Clients practice social distancing as they wait for food

"How do we sign up for emergency food delivery? I have a rare disease that keeps me homebound. I live in South Minneapolis. This would help me out so much. My husband has no health insurance and does not want to go shopping because of COVID-19."